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TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Working Party on the Medium-term Plan
and the Programme Budget
Twenty-eighth session
Geneva, 16 September 1996
Item 2 of the provisional agenda

PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND ANNOTATIONS

I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Election of officers

2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

3. Review of the UNCTAD section of the United Nations programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997, in the light of the outcome of the ninth session of the Conference

4. Provisional agenda for the twenty-ninth session of the Working Party

5. Other business

6. Adoption of the report of the Working Party to the Trade and Development Board.

GE.96-51282

II. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Item 1 - Election of officers

1. Under rule 64, paragraph 3, of the rules of procedure of the Trade and Development Board, and in accordance with the cycle of rotation for the election of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman-cum-Rapporteur, the Chairman of the Working Party at its twenty-eighth session shall be a representative of one of the States members in List A (Asia). The Vice-Chairman-cum-Rapporteur, shall be a representative of one of the States members in list A (Africa).

Item 2 - Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

2. The provisional agenda for the twenty-eighth session of the Working Party, as reproduced in section I above, was approved by the Working Party at its 113th meeting, on 19 June 1996. A note on the organization of work of the session will be circulated at the opening of the meeting.

Item 3 - Review of the UNCTAD section of the United Nations programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997, in the light of the outcome of the ninth session of the Conference

3. The Working Party will have before it in TD/B/WP/98, a proposed revision to the work programme narrative of the UNCTAD section of the United Nations programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997.

4. The United Nations programme budget for the current biennium was approved by the General Assembly at its fiftieth session. The revised work programme narrative proposed by the secretariat is based on the reorientations resulting from decisions of the ninth session of the Conference and in the light of the restructuring of the UNCTAD secretariat.

Item 4 - Provisional agenda for the twenty-ninth session of the Working Party

5. The UNCTAD secretariat will submit to the Working Party for its consideration a draft provisional agenda for its twenty-ninth session.

Item 5 - Other business

Item 6 - Adoption of the report of the Working Party to the Trade and Development Board

6. The report of the Working Party on its twenty-eighth session will be submitted to the Trade and Development Board.

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TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Working Party on the Medium-term Plan
and the Programme Budget
Twenty-eighth session
Geneva, 16 September 1996
Item 3 of the provisional agenda

REVIEW OF THE UNCTAD SECTION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1996-1997,
IN THE LIGHT OF THE OUTCOME OF THE
NINTH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE

THE UNCTAD SECTION OF THE UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1996-1997

(PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE PROGRAMME OF WORK)

Overview

The broad orientation of the work of UNCTAD is to promote development through trade and investment and to facilitate the integration of developing countries and countries with economies in transition into the international trading system. Emphasis will be placed on the integrated treatment of development and interrelated issues in the areas of trade, finance, investment, technology and sustainable development, as adapted to the new economic and institutional modalities created by the process of globalization and the conclusion of the Uruguay Round Agreements. UNCTAD will work in a complementary manner with the World Trade Organization (WTO) and in cooperation and coordination with the International Trade Centre, UNCTAD/WTO (ITC), relevant institutions of the United Nations system and other international organizations. The work will be geared to the special needs of developing countries, particularly LDCs, and focus on development issues. It will be action-oriented and provide guidance on national policies and on an enabling environment conducive to trade and development. LDCs, sustainable development, poverty alleviation, the empowerment of women, and cooperation among developing countries will constitute cross-cutting issues in UNCTAD's work.

GE.96-51428

The principal intergovernmental bodies providing policy guidance and overall direction to the work of the UNCTAD secretariat are the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, which convenes every four years, and the Trade and Development Board (TDB), which meets in regular and executive sessions to set or adjust priorities for the period remaining up until the next session of the Conference. The subsidiary machinery of TDB is structured in accordance with the work programme agreed at the ninth session of the Conference (Midrand, South Africa, April 1996). TDB has three main subsidiary bodies: the Commission on Trade in Goods and Services, and Commodities; the Commission on Investment, Technology and Related Financial Issues; and the commission on Enterprise, Business Facilitation and Development. Unless otherwise decided by TDB, the Commissions meet once a year and may convene up to ten intergovernmental expert meetings per year on specific issues in their respective areas of competence.

Substantive servicing of all meetings related to the above intergovernmental bodies, and the Commission on Science and Technology for Development is provided by the relevant units of the UNCTAD secretariat.

Consistent with the priorities, objectives and intergovernmental machinery established by the ninth session of the Conference, the present revision amounts to a major consolidation of the programme of work. UNCTAD's existing five programmes, which include twenty five subprogrammes in the Medium Term Plan 1992-1997, have been rationalized into one programme consisting of five subprogrammes. Specific objectives of the subprogrammes are set out in the final documents of UNCTAD IX Midrand Declaration and A Partnership for Growth and Development (TD/377), and have been subsequently reflected in the UNCTAD programme of the United Nations Medium-term Plan for 1998-2001.

Subprogramme 9.1
Globalization and Development

The focus of the subprogramme is to facilitate the process through which developing countries utilize the benefits of globalization to accelerate the attainment of the objective of sustainable development. The subprogramme will support intergovernmental discussions on interdependence. In addition, the subprogramme is responsible for follow-up to the New Agenda for the Development of Africa (UN-NADAF) and the Programme on Assistance to the Palestinian People. It is also responsible for supporting general secretariat needs for documentation reference, coordinating statistical activities in UNCTAD and preparing statistical publications, and providing in-house EDP support.

Activities

1. International cooperation

External relations. Cooperation and coordination with intergovernmental organizations including IMF, the World Bank, regional development banks, OECD, the Commonwealth Secretariat, the Bank for International Settlements and the Coordination Committee on Multilateral Payments Arrangements and Monetary Cooperation Among Developing Countries.

2. Parliamentary services

(a) Parliamentary documentation.

(i) Documents for TDB on: global interdependence from a development perspective; and UNCTAD's contribution to the New Agenda for the Development of Africa;

(ii) Report to the Commission on Enterprise, Business Facilitation and Development on successful development experiences; development challenges confronting countries, in particular the least developed, regarding effective participation in international trade and investment (to be decided by the Commission for 1997).

(iii) Reports on relevant financial issues to the Commission on Investment, Technology and Related Financial Issues (to be decided by the Commission for 1997);

(iv) Document for a pilot seminar on the mobilization of the private sector in order to encourage foreign investment flows towards the least developed countries;

(v) Report to the General Assembly on State of South-South Cooperation (1997).

(b) *Substantive services.* TDB - global interdependence issues from a development perspective, concentrating on specific micro and macro issues (annual). Intergovernmental expert meetings as may be decided by the Commission on Enterprise, Business Facilitation and Development on specific global interdependence issues and specific development challenges regarding effective participation in international trade and investment.

(c) *Ad hoc expert groups.* Experiences and emerging issues of economic cooperation among developing countries focusing on triangular cooperation.

3. Published Materials

(a) *Recurrent publications.* Trade and Development Report (annual); Handbook of International Trade and Development Statistics (2); Commodity Price Bulletin Supplement (24); DMFAS Newsletter.

(b) *Non-recurrent publications.* Further examination of the applicability of the East Asian experience to other developing countries, in particular those in Africa; Palestine in the emerging global economy: challenges and opportunities; strengthening of export financing for the effective participation of developing countries in the global economy and in support of trade infrastructure; monetary cooperation among developing countries.

(c) *Technical material.* Technical background material on topics covered by Trade and Development Report; inputs to Least Developed Countries Report; identification of concrete opportunities for poverty alleviation, notably through the reduction of inequalities in income distribution and wealth; role of debt management in LDCs development prospects;; reports to Paris Club meetings on the economic situation and prospects of countries requesting debt rescheduling; Compendiums of reports and studies on current monetary and financial issues(3) prepared under the G24 project; central statistical services; maintenance of an on-line information system (ETS) containing time-series data related to trade and development.

4. Information Materials and Services

Booklets, pamphlets. Users' guides and training manuals on the use of DMFAS.
Exhibits and other visual material. Demonstrations of DMFAS to interested countries and to international and regional meetings.

5. Operational activities

(a) *Advisory services.* Installation of DMFAS within an appropriate institutional and legal arrangement to enhance effective debt management; linkage of DMFAS with integrated financial governmental management systems (budget, insurance and public accounting). In the context of examining specific development challenges regarding effective participation in international trade and investment, appropriate use of new financial mechanisms such as debt-for-environment swaps, tradeable permits on carbon emission, build-operate-transfer arrangements, and capital market development and the use of derivatives for managing interest rate and foreign exchange risks. Backstopping to the Intergovernmental Group of Twenty-Four on International Monetary Affairs. Monetary and financial cooperation among developing countries. Activities in support of Palestinian trade and related sectors, including the legal and institutional framework affecting investment and business activities. Support to governments using the ETS statistical database management system.

(b) *Group training.* Within the framework of country projects for installation and implementation of DMFAS, training to operate and manage the system and to develop a national capacity for effective debt management, training in debt conversion for debtor countries to benefit from the Paris Club debt conversion clause.

(c) *Field Projects.* Technical cooperation projects upon request in specific areas in support of weak and vulnerable economies.

6. Coordination, Harmonization and Liaison

Collaboration, coordination, liaison with UN system agencies and UNDP. Harmonization, including through participation in working groups and task forces on databases, telecommunications and statistical data with statistical entities of the UN system and other international organizations through inter-agency bodies such as ACC, the Information System Coordinating Committee and Technological Innovation Committee.

Subprogramme 9.2

Investment, Enterprise Development and Technology

The focus of this subprogramme is on investment, enterprise development and the participation of enterprises in the global economy, and issues related to technology for development, in order to promote international policy dialogue and the exchange of experiences among development actors, including the private sector, for the purpose of assessing the challenges and opportunities for enterprise development arising from the emerging new economic conditions, including the post-Uruguay Round environment.

Activities

1. International cooperation

External relations. Liaison and cooperation with governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, national and international business organizations, trade unions and academia, dealing with issues relating to foreign direct investment, science and technology for development, and enterprise development. Liaison with international organizations, particularly World Bank, regional development banks, IMF, EU, ASEAN, NAFTA, OECD, EBRD, WTO, WIPO, UNIDO, the International Accounting Standards Committee, the International Federation of Accountants and the Fedération des Experts Comptables Européens, the International Association for Technology Assessment and Financing Institutions and the International Association for Impact Assessment. Joint research and technical cooperation with World Bank, APEC, EU, ICC, ILO, NAFTA, OECD, UNDP and WTO, including through advisory boards, coordinating councils and workshops.

2. Parliamentary services

(a) Parliamentary documentation.

(i) Inputs to the report to UNCTAD IX on issues relating to investment, technology and enterprise development, 1996;

(ii) Report on investment to TDB (high-level segment), 1996, and if so decided by TDB, 1997;

(iii) Reports to Commission on Investment, Technology and Related Financial Issues: World Investment Report Overview, 1996 and 1997; activities of the subprogramme; to be decided by the Commission for 1997.

(iv) Report to the Commission on Enterprise, Business Facilitation and Development on Enterprise: issues related to an enterprise development strategy, 1996; documentation to be decided by the Commission, 1997;

(v) Reports to the annual sessions of Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Accounting and Reporting: trends and issues of international corporate accounting and reporting, 1996 (1997 to be decided by its parent

body); accounting and disclosure practices by commercial banks (1996); accounting for government concessions (1997); current accounting practices in transfer pricing (1997); and environmental accounting (1997, pending the decision of its parent body).

(vi) Reports to the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on information technologies; science and technology and innovation policy reviews, and Vienna Conference; technology on energy and sustainable development.

(vii) Country experiences in attracting foreign direct investment (Investment Policy Reviews) (1997).

(b) Substantive services (including official records).

UNCTAD IX (1996); TDB, including its high-level segment in 1996; Commission on Investment, Technology and Related Financial Issues, and its intergovernmental expert meetings, 1996 and 1997; Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Accounting and Reporting, 1996 (1997, pending the decision of its parent body); Commission on Science and Technology for Development, third session, and intergovernmental expert panels (4); relevant issues on enterprise development in the Commission on Enterprise, Business Facilitation and Development, and expert meetings.

(c) Ad hoc expert groups:

Ad hoc expert group meetings on general understanding of trends and changes in foreign-direct-investment (FDI) flows and related policies, the interrelationships between FDI, trade, technology and development, and issues related to transnational corporations of all sizes and their contribution to development (2) (1997); identification and analysis of implications for development of issues relevant to a possible multilateral framework on investment (2) (1996 and 1997); identification and analysis of specific contribution that FDI can make to indigenous enterprise development and promote ways to facilitate efficient domestic resources mobilization (1) (1997); investment policy reviews with member countries (2) (1997); enhancing the capacity of developing countries and countries with economies in transition to improve their overall investment climate, including through assistance in accounting standards, environmental accounting and accounting education and related activities (2) (1996 and 1997); exchange of experiences on investment promotion and the benefits of FDI (1) (1996); promotion of investment among developing countries (1) (1997). Managing technology transfer for endogenous capacity-building; meeting on identifying opportunities arising from the TRIPS Agreement for the transfer of technology and investment.

3. Published materials

(a) *Recurrent publications*:

World Investment Report (1996 and 1997); Transnational Corporations journal (three issues per year); World Investment Directory series (two regional issues per year); Reviews of international accounting and reporting issues (1996 and 1997); *Transnationals newsletter* (quarterly); Newsletter on entrepreneurship (one issue per year), ATAS Bulletin (biennial), Privatization Newsletter (annual); trends in developments in science and technology (annual).

(b) *Non-recurrent publications*

Studies, to be published as Current Studies, Series A, on general and regional trends in foreign-direct-investment (FDI) flows and related policies (4); the interrelationships between FDI, trade, technology and development (1); issues related to transnational corporations of all sizes and their contribution to development(3); environmental management and the specific contribution that FDI can make to indigenous enterprise development(1); investment policy reviews (1),1997; background papers on implications for development of issues relevant to a possible multilateral framework on investment (10), 1997. Studies, to be published as Advisory Studies, Series B, on enhancing the capacity of developing countries and countries with economies in transition to improve their overall investment climate, promoting opportunities for FDI in host countries, and promoting investment among developing countries (4). Studies on environmental accounting (2), 1997; proceedings of a forum on auditing (1), 1996; proceedings of a forum on commercial banks' disclosures (1), 1997. Selected countries' science and technology and innovation policy reviews (STIP) (1); study on policies dealing with transfer in development of technology, including issues on TRIPs (1); study on policy approaches and mechanisms including incentives for the promotion of technological innovation and transfer of technology (1). Studies on: policies and instruments for SME development, lessons from experience (1); furthering participation of developing countries' enterprises in the global economy (1); special problems relating to enterprise development in countries with economies in transition (1).

(c) *Technical materials*:

ISAR information brochure, 1997; Two brochures on the technical cooperation programme, 1996 and 1997. Inputs to Least Developed Countries Report.

4. Information materials and services

(a) *Information materials.* Fliers on technical studies; development of guidelines, handbooks and curricula on specific issues related to transnational corporations, briefing material on activities relating to science and technology.

(b) Provision of corporate and legal information in support of advisory services.

5. Operational activities

(a) *Advisory services*: (i) Policy advice to governments, particularly in Africa and in LDCs, regarding the development and implementation of bilateral, regional and international arrangements and agreements on investment, harmonization of foreign-direct-investment reporting systems, the preparation of country experience studies, and standards of accounting and reporting; (ii) assistance to governments and regional integration groupings, particularly in LDCs, in the formulation, revision and/or harmonization of either their general or sectoral policies, laws and regulations relating to foreign investment and technology transfer so as to facilitate mutually beneficial flows (estimated outputs: advisory reports to be prepared for about 15 Governments and/or regional organizations, 4 training workshops, 4 round tables, symposia and seminars); (iii) assistance to governments, particularly in Africa and LDCs, in strengthening and streamlining their machinery for screening/evaluating, monitoring and promoting foreign investment (estimated outputs: 8 Governments to receive advisory reports, 4 training workshops or round tables); (iv) assistance in structuring and negotiating major deals with transnational corporations in specific sectors (estimated output: 10 Governments to receive advice and/or information, 4 training workshops to be organized); (v) organization of informal consultations for developing countries involved in multilateral discussions on trade in professional (accounting) services; (vi) assistance in the development of national information systems on transnational corporations. Advice to governments on the building of endogenous capacities in science and technology, including on policies and measures related to the absorption, generation and diffusion of science and technology and human resource development; advice to governments, in particular of developing countries, on information management policies and science and technology indicators; technical assistance in technology development, including information technology, and dissemination relevant information through networking.

(b) *Group training.* Semi nars, training workshops and sympcsia for government officials, and non-governmental organizations on (I) functions and impact of international, regional and bilateral arrangements; (ii) country experience studies; (iii) harmonization of foreign direct investment reporting systems; (iv) incorporation of sustainable development management practices into national policies and enhancement of national strategies for sustainable development as they relate to transnational corporations; (v) legal issues creating a favourable investment climate, privatization, joint venture arrangements, capital market development, technology transfer, fiscal and financial arrangements in natural resources contracts, intellectual property protection policy in transitional economies, institutions of higher learning curricula; (vi) environment and sustainable development; (vii) free economic zones in transitional economies and developing countries; and (viii) re-training for accountancy practitioners converting to new methodologies for accounting and auditing. In addition, an estimated six training workshops, seminars and symposia will be organized to enhance the entrepreneurship capabilities of small and medium-sized enterprises and to facilitate their links with transnational corporations. Training programmes on the formulation of policies and mechanisms that have an impact on investment and technology flows, and on ways and means of implementing the TRIPS Agreement. Seminars and workshops on enterprise development will be undertaken as recommended by the relevant intergovernmental bodies.

(c) *Fellowships and study* tours: Fellowships - for government and/or private sector officials to develop skills in such areas as project evaluation; management and supervision of financial institutions; capital market development; and management of Third World transnational corporation organizations. Study tours - for developing country and transitional economy officials to exchange experiences with respect to such issues as privatization, technology transfer, promotion of foreign direct investment, and environmental protection.

(d) *Field projects.* National and regional EMPRETEC projects.

6. **Coordination, harmonization and liaison**

Cooperation and liaison with United Nations entities including DPCSD, DESIPA, DDSMS and regional commissions, and where necessary, inputs and substantive backstopping to them to ensure that activities are consistent and mutually supportive; continued active participation in formal coordinating mechanisms and in joint activities that may be agreed upon with other parts of the United Nations and coordination with other United Nations agencies and organizations, such as UNIDO.

Subprogramme 9.3
International Trade in Goods and Services, and Commodities

The focus of the subprogramme is to maximize the positive impact of globalization and liberalization on sustainable development by assisting in the effective integration of developing countries, particularly the least developed as well as certain developing countries with structurally weak and vulnerable economies, including those countries which are commodity dependent, into the international trading system. The specific interests of countries with economies in transition will also be taken into account.

Activities

1. International cooperation

(a) *Promotion of legal instruments.* Convening of United Nations Conferences at the request of Governments in regard to international agreements on cocoa, jute, olive oil, natural rubber, sugar and tropical timber,;

(b) *External relations.* Cooperation with WTO, IBRD, SELA, CI, OECD on competition policy and consumer protection. Participation in meetings of WTO Committee on Trade and Environment, and OECD Joint Session of Trade and Environment Experts, and cooperation and consultation with World Bank, IMF, ISO, and substantive coordination with non-governmental organizations and other representatives of civil society on environment issues. Preparation for, participation in and reporting on WTO meetings. Cooperation with ACP, World Bank, SELA, Islamic Bank, OAS, LAS, ATFP, AMF and liaison with civil society on international trade issues. Cooperation with World Bank on development of the integrated data base and modeling, and coordination with regional and subregional groupings for the Interactive TRAINS Dissemination Programme. Liaison with the Common Fund for Commodities, producer and consumer organizations, interregional and regional commodity producer organizations, non-governmental organizations and commodity bodies, OECD, EU, ACP, SELA and OAU.

2. Parliamentary services

(a) Parliamentary documentation

(i) Reports to the General Assembly on: the effects of the results of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations on food production, including agro-industrial products and global food security in

developing countries, 1996; further developments related to the strengthening of international organizations in the area of multilateral trade, 1996; concrete progress achieved on the issue of trade and environment, 1997; world commodity trends and prospects, 1996;

(ii) Inputs, jointly with WTO and with the assistance of ITC, to the report to UNCTAD IX on strengthening the participation of developing countries in world trade and the multilateral trading system, 1996;

(iii) Inputs to the report to TDB as a contribution to the work of relevant international organizations in the implementation of the Uruguay Round Final Act Decision in Favour of the LDCs by assisting the LDCs that are WTO members to take maximum advantage of the special and differential measures provided for in the Uruguay Round Agreements, 1996, 1997;

(iv) Report to TDB executive session to be convened in the first quarter of 1997, on issues arising in the wake of the WTO Ministerial Meeting to be held in Singapore in November 1996;

(v) Reports to the Commission on Trade in Goods and Services, and Commodities on: the impact of the Uruguay Round Agreements on development and enhancing capacities for participation in the multilateral trading system, 1996; integrating trade, environment and development: recent progress and outstanding issues, 1996; reports to the second session of the Commission on topics to be determined by it.

(vi) Report to the Commission on Investment, Technology and Related Financial Issues on the expert meeting on analytical work on RBPs and assistance in formulating competition policies and legislation, 1996; if so decided by the Commission at its first session, report for second session, 1997.

(vii) Reports to UNCTAD/UNEP Meetings on trade and environment, 1996, 1997;

(viii) Reports to the Commission on Sustainable Development: trade, environment and sustainable development (E/CN/17/1996/8 and Add.1, 1996), 1997; Research on trade, environment and sustainable development, 1996; UNCTAD activities on trade, environment and sustainable development, 1996; the relationship of environmental protection, job creation and international competitiveness, 1997;

(ix) Report to the WTO Committee on Trade and Environment, 1996;

(x) Documentation for the intergovernmental expert meetings, up to four reports in 1997 subject to a decision at the first session of the Commission on Trade in Goods and Services, and Commodities; one report to the Expert Meeting on analytical work on RBPs and assistance in formulating competition policies and legislation, 1996; one report to the Expert Meeting in 1997 subject to a decision of the Commission on Investment, Technology and Related Financial Issues, at its first session;

(xi) Reports to United Nations conferences on sugar (3); jute and jute products (3); and olive oil and table olives (3).

(b) *Substantive services*

(i) UNCTAD IX (held in 1996); (ii) Commission on Trade in Goods and Services, and Commodities (1996, 1997); (iii) Commission on Investment, Technology and Related Financial Issues (1996); (iv)Ad Hoc Working Group on Trading Opportunities in the New International Trading Context (held in 1996); (v) Seminar on Regional Economic Arrangements and their Relationship with the Multilateral Trading System (held in 1996); (vi) Intergovernmental expert meetings: one meeting in 1996 on competition policy, up to five meetings in 1997 including four on trade and commodities and one on competition policy.

(c) *Ad hoc expert groups*

Impact of globalization on the multilateral trading system; Strengthening export capacity in the services sector in developing countries; methodological approaches for analysing the impact of the Uruguay Round Agreements on the trade and development prospects of developing countries; positive measures to facilitate the expansion of trading opportunities in favour of LDCs and ways to enable them to maximize benefits from liberalized access to market; commodity production methods consistent with sustainable natural resource use; structural transformation and diversification in commodity demand; and development policies for resource-based economies.

3. Published material

(a) *Recurrent publications.* Information notes on developments in competition policy and RBPs (2); model law or laws on RBPs - Revisions, 1997; handbooks on competition (2); reports on technical cooperation activities on trade and environment, 1997; information notes (10) on amendments and utilization of

GSP schemes; report of the Commission on Trade in Goods and Services, and Commodities; *UNCTAD Minerals Yearbook*.

(b) *Non-recurrent publications*. Benefits from applying competition law and policy principles, 1997; Reconciliation of environmental and trade policies - a synthesis of country case studies; Trade and Environment: a South Asian Perspective; Trade and Environment: the developing countries' perspective; Eco-labelling and International Trade; (2) Multilateral Environment Agreements and issues of interest to developing countries (in cooperation with UNEP); country case studies on trade and environment (8); report of the topical seminar on environment and trade: a development perspective; studies on export opportunities in four service sectors (4). Analysis of the impact of the Uruguay Round Agreements on development: country case studies including LDCs (6), sectoral studies (3), methodological issues; study on the scope of development policy options in the post-Uruguay Round context; Report on country needs assessment relating to enhancing national capacities to enable WTO members to adjust effectively to meet their obligations and to take advantage of their rights; studies (4) identifying impediments to trading success, including barriers to export expansion and diversification and review of successful experiences to draw lessons for overcoming such impediments; issues related to measures for facilitating the expansion of trading opportunities for LDCs. Impact of globalization on the multilateral trading system; measures for reviving trade between economies in transition and developing countries; some implications for developing countries of the Uruguay Round results and selected new and emerging issues: quantitative assessments; a summary of experiences in enhancing the development of services sector in developing countries; study on specific problems of economies in transition in the integration into the international trading system (with particular reference to issues related to paragraph 91 (i) and (ii) of the final document of UNCTAD IX). Studies on: commodity diversification experiences (4); transparency of, and trends in, commodity markets (2); management of commodity resources in the context of sustainable development (5); risk-limiting instruments for commodities (4); report on the *International Sugar Agreement (1996)*.

(c) *Technical material*. Directory of Competition Authorities; data base relating to decisions by competition authorities and courts; development of the data base on measures affecting services trade; proposals for improvement of statistics on trade in services; analytical information on developments in the international trading system and their implications for developing countries, in cooperation with other organizations; should the issue be included in the programme of cooperation with WTO, providing analytical

information relating to the decision on measures concerning the possible negative effects of the reform programme on LDCs and net food-importing developing countries; integration and major revision of the computerized data bases on tariffs, non-tariff measures, trade flows in goods and services and GSP into a single trade information system as an instrument for identifying new trading opportunities and trade analysis; further development of SMART as trade policy model for impact analysis. Data on trends in individual commodity markets; training manuals on environmentally preferable products and on internalization; training manuals on the management and operation of commodity diversification projects, especially in least-developed countries; training manuals on a clearing house for resource management information; contributions to WIR, TDR and Least Developed Countries Report, 1996 and 1997; regional experiences in the light of new orientations in the economic integration process of developing countries (implemented by ECDC, 1996).

4. Information materials and services

Preparation in user-friendly format of computerized information and statistical data on tariffs, non-tariff measures, trade flows, GSP and other preferential arrangements, as well as trading firms; dissemination of trade control measures information (in CD-ROM, twice per year) to focal points and other users; Directory of Import Regimes: Part I (revision and Quantitative Synopsis as Supplement to Part I) and Part II (second part); and updated database in its environmental dimension and country coverage; preparation of information and data on GSP schemes for dissemination through INTERNET; dissemination of the MAST data base; preparation of training materials and information for dissemination, including periodical GSP newsletters; handbooks on GSP schemes and other trade laws of preference-giving countries (six); and information on major new developments in preferential trading arrangements and their incidence on developing countries as they may occur. Enquiry services on GSP schemes, preferential rates, origin and other administrative requirements (continuous);

5. Operational activities

(a) *Advisory services.* Advisory missions and backstopping thereof relating to: adoption, revision and implementation of competition and consumer protection legislation in developing countries and countries in transition; trade and environment; analysing the impact of the Uruguay Round Agreements on development; accession to WTO; participation in regional and national meetings on future agenda; assistance to LDCs that are WTO members to take maximum advantage of the special and differential measures provided for in the Uruguay

Round Agreements; strengthening developing countries capacity in the services sector and identification of export opportunities; improving familiarization with GSP and other preferential arrangements and better utilization of opportunities; effective utilization of trading opportunities arising from the MTS and enhancing trade and export policies as well as export capacities to that effect; commodity risk management and finance; technical and policy aspects of resource development, especially in least-developed countries; expansion of trade in environmentally preferable products and the internalization of environmental externalities; integrated, multi-disciplinary and participatory approach to resource exploitation and primary commodity production in the context of sustainable development; policy advice on anticipating and obviating problems associated with mineral-led development; preparing commodity projects for financing through the First and Second Accounts of the Common Fund for Commodities; operation and functioning of international commodity agreements/arrangements; and promotion of diversification through expanded intra- and inter-regional commodity trade, especially of the least- developed countries;

(b) *Group training.* Seminars and backstopping thereof relating to: competition and consumer protection legislation and elimination or control of RBPs; trade and environment; accession by developing countries and countries in transition to WTO; analysis, from a development perspective, of issues on the international trade agenda; assisting LDCs, members of WTO, to take maximum advantage of the special and differential measures provided in the Uruguay Round Agreements; strengthening developing countries' capacities in the services sector and identification of export opportunities; national seminars on GSP, other trade laws and preferential trading arrangements; preparation of training courses for TRAINFORTRADE, including on GSP, commercial diplomacy and other trade policy issues; Installation and training in the operation of TRAINS in selected focal points of individual countries, and of regional and subregional groupings; and in-service training of staff from selected regional and subregional groupings for interactive collaboration in TRAINS. Workshops on government policies for commodity risk management and finance; the establishment of new commodity exchanges; expansion of trade in environmentally preferable products and the internalization of environmental externalities; the management and operation of commodity diversification projects, especially in least-developed countries; institutional upgrading and capacity building in the use of techniques and tools for geo-management, especially for the least-developed countries; mechanisms for popular participation in resource development decision-making; and on commodity processing for vertical diversification.

(c) *Field projects*. Backstopping of field projects relating to competition policy and consumer protection, trade and environment, WTO-related issues, services, GSP and other preferential arrangements, economies in transition and capacity building for developing countries to benefit from the opportunities arising from participation in the multilateral trading system and enabling WTO members to adjust effectively to meet their obligations and to take advantage of their rights.

6. **Coordination, harmonization and liaison.**

Participation in meetings of the Commission on Sustainable Development, and the UNEP Governing Council. Cooperation and consultation with other United Nations entities and agencies on WTO-related matters and other international trade issues; participation in interagency activities on improving statistics on trade in services and coordination, harmonization and liaison with statistical entities of the United Nations and other international organizations concerned with trade data; cooperation with GSP focal points, regional integration secretariats, etc. in the implementation of national and regional technical cooperation activities; joint technical cooperation activities with ITC regarding trading opportunities, and with regional commissions regarding preferential trading arrangements. As the principal intergovernmental forum in the field of commodities, UNCTAD will continue to facilitate the coordination of the activities of all bodies involved in the commodities field, maintaining contacts with the Common Fund for Commodities, the FAO Committees on Commodity Problems, Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture, and its intergovernmental groups dealing with specific agricultural products and with the World Trade Organization in respect of the liberalization of commodity trade and with its Councils on bovine meat and milk and dairy products.

Subprogramme 4

Services Infrastructure for Development and Trade Efficiency

The subprogramme's main goal is to assist developing countries, particularly the least developed, and countries with economies in transition in generating trade-supporting services such as customs, transportation, banking and insurance, telecommunications, business information which are adapted to their particular requirements, with a focus on services addressing the needs of the informal, micro, small and medium-sized enteprise sectors. Work will include review and assessment of progress in trade efficiency and assisting interested countries in establishing Trade Points. The expected end result of action in these areas is the enhancement of the trade competitiveness and the ability of the weaker economic players (including the LDCs and SMMEs).

Activities

1. International cooperation

Liaison with World Customs Organization (WCO), International Telecommunication Union (ITU), World Trade Organization (WTO) and International Maritime Organization (IMO). Close contacts and cooperation with private and public entities contributing to the objectives of the programme, in each of its sectors of activity (e.g. chambers of commerce, associations of exporters, trade promotion organizations, trade facilitation bodies, non-governmental organizations and academic institutions).

2. Parliamentary services

(a) Parliamentary documentation:

(i) inputs to the report to UNCTAD IX on issues related to services development and trade efficiency (1996);

(ii) reports to the Commission on Enterprise, Business Facilitation and Development on Trade Efficiency: efficient customs and transportation services as a tool to enhance trading capacities particular of SMEs, 1996; and 1997 (to be decided by the Commission);

(iii) documentation for the Expert Meetings to be convened by the Commission;

(iv) reports to the Joint UNCTAD/IMO Intergovernmental Group of Experts on the revision of the 1952 Convention on Arrest of Ships and preparation of a new draft Convention on the subject.

(b) Parliamentary services

UNCTAD IX (1996); Commission on Enterprise, Business Facilitation and Development and its relevant intergovernmental expert meetings.

3. Published material

(a) Recurrent publications: Annual Review of Maritime Transport; Annual Trade Efficiency and Trade Point Review.

(b) Non-recurrent publications: transport and logistics issues related to Trade Points; telecommunications issues related to Trade Points; contribution of GTPNet to the integration of the LDCs and SMMEs in the Global Information Society. Trade Efficiency Assessment: results obtained from field studies, and proposals for a cross-country methodology; contribution of insurance to improve trade efficiency; insurance services and products for micro and small and medium-sized enterprises; economic impact of institutional and technological changes on transport, including on the participation of small-scale private operators; quality management in transport organizations; ECDC in transport services; strategies for trade and transport facilitation in landlocked and island developing countries; review of on-going processes of establishing sub-regional multimodal transport operations, regulations and administrative procedures; possible value-added logistics services to be offered by developing countries; study on legal measures to promote trade facilitation.

(c) Technical material: assessment of the Trade Point Programme, including on inter-operability and financial sustainability aspects; information kit (multimedia) for Trade Point managers and institutions interested in setting up Trade Points; relevant trade and business information, in particular from Trade Points in LDCs, for its dissemination via the INTERNET and through other electronic means, including CD-ROMs; multimedia package to disseminate basic skills in the area of trade-supporting services for micro-businesses and the informal sector; contribution to the Least Developed Countries Report and to other UNCTAD publications on landlocked and island developing countries, on the implementation of the UN/NADAF; TRAINMAR Bulletin (bi-annual), TRAINMAR Catalogue (annual); continuous enhancement of ASYCUDA and ACIS software; ACIS users manual; tools for transit transport monitoring; up-dating of Multiship

model II software; maintenance and upgrading of database on insurance; statistics manual on supervision of insurance operations; up-date of performance indicators of efficiency in transport services; UNCTAD Ports Newsletter* (bi-annual); UNCTAD Multimodal Transport Newsletter(*) (annual).

4. Information materials and services

(a) *Booklets, pamphlets and briefing materials* on the following programmes: ASYCUDA, the Trade Point Programme and the GTPNet, ACIS, TRAINMAR, services for micro enterprises and the informal sector.

(b) *Exhibits and other visual materials*: sets of computer presentations for country and conference use on ACIS, GTPNet, TRAINMAR;

(c) *Lectures and seminars*: preparation and delivery of lectures to support training institutions and academia on issues related to services infrastructure for development and trade efficiency.

5. Operational activities

(a) *Advisory services* to developing countries on: the formulation of national policies promoting services infrastructure for development and trade efficiency, in particular through the implementation of the recommendations concerning customs, transport, banking and insurance, telecommunications, business information and business practices that were adopted by the United Nations International Symposium on Trade Efficiency. Conduct of trade efficiency assessment upon the request of individual countries. Advice to private and public sector operators on the implementation of the UNISTE sectoral recommendations; the establishment and interconnection of Trade Points; customs reforms and automation (ASYCUDA); the improvement of the availability of banking and insurance services to SMEs and the informal sector; provision of trade-supporting services specifically geared to the informal and micro entrepreneurs; the promotion of development supportive uses of the Global Information Infrastructure (GII), with especial emphasis on SMEs and the LDCs; the facilitation of trade and transport by standardizing, harmonizing and streamlining codes, procedures and forms; the implementation of the United Nations Convention on a Code of Conduct for Liner Conferences,

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*Asterisks indicate on-going activities that will be consolidated or otherwise adapted to the mandates received in Midrand and as the result of the restructuring of the UNCTAD Secretariat.

the Hamburg Rules and other legal shipping instruments adopted under United Nations auspices(*).

(b) *Group training*: organization and backstopping (including the preparation of training materials for wider dissemination) of training programmes, seminars and workshops for government officials and private sector operators of developing countries in the fields of: Trade Point management of transport and related services; customs reform and automation in the context of ASYCUDA projects; cargo tracking tools, in the context of ACIS projects; TRAINMAR: training of managers of training institutions and officials responsible for human resource development; Services for micro enterprises and the informal sector; trade facilitation and multimodal transport; and maritime legislation(*).

(c) *Field projects*: substantive input to, and coordination of field projects in the following areas: Customs automation and reform (ASYCUDA): support to the 73 countries in which the system is in use; implementing ASYCUDA in other developing countries and countries in transition. Establishment and support of Trade Points and their interconnection to the GTPNet; development of software tools for Trade Points. Services for micro enterprises, including the establishment and support of Trade Points geared to micro enterprises and the informal sector, and the channelling of private investment toward micro financing institutions; Cargo tracking (ACIS): support to the 16 countries where the system is in use; preparation of projects for its implementation in other developing countries and countries in transition. Private sector participation in transport and related services. Transit transport: in compliance with General Assembly resolution in this matter, provide assistance to landlocked developing countries and countries in transition, including, in joint work with ASYCUDA, the development of software tools for transit transport monitoring. Multimodal transport and trade facilitation. Assistance for the rehabilitation of Somalia ports.

6. Coordination, harmonization and liaison

Joint action currently under way with the international Trade Centre (UNCTAD/WTO) in the field of business information, and with the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund for the improvement of trade efficiency will be continued and enhanced. Close coordination will be maintained with other United Nations bodies, specialized agencies and intergovernmental organizations, including the regional commissions, UNIDO, UNCITRAL, WTO, IMO, World Customs Organization, ILO; NGOs working in the field of development; private sector organizations; academic institutions and organizations involved in the TRAINMAR and Trade Point

networks and in the ASYCUDA programme. Participation in the inter-institutional task force on trade efficiency (ITC-UNCTAD-UNECE) will be maintained. Particular emphasis will be placed on close cooperation with industry and academia in the implementation of the work programme.

Sub-programme 5

Least developed landlocked, and island developing countries

This Subprogramme will focus on the integration and fuller participation of LDCs in the global economy, thus preventing their further marginalization in world trade, investment, commodities and capital markets. It will undertake the necessary preparatory work for the Third Global Review of progress in the Implementation of the Programme of Action and follow-up to relevant provisions on LDCs of recent global conferences, as well as on assistance to the landlocked and island developing countries to overcome their particular development constraints.

Activities

A. Least developed countries

1. Parliamentary services

(a) *Parliamentary documentation*. Reports to the TDB and General Assembly on the implementation of recommendations of the mid-term global review of the Programme of Action (annual); reports, as required, to the Commissions and intergovernmental expert meetings.

(b) *Substantive services*. General Assembly and TDB on the issues related to the least developed countries.

2. Published material

(a) *Recurrent publications*. *The Least Developed Countries Report* (annual);

(b) *Non-recurrent publications*. Papers on the status of the implementation of the Programme of Action; study on the integration of women in the development of LDCs.

(c) *Technical material*. Collection and evaluation of information for the development and maintenance of performance indicators in implementation of the Programme of Action; basic data for least developed countries; analytical papers and issues notes on cross-sectoral issues for technical meetings, including round tables, consultative groups, and the Committee on Developing Planning as well as for joint publications with regional commissions and other organizations.

3. Information materials and services

Within the context of the Programme of Action, contributions to various publications, documents, fact sheets and related material, special events, lectures, seminars and presentations on issues related to the least developed countries.

4. Operational activities

(a) Management of the Trust Fund for LDCs;

(b) *Advisory services.* Advisory missions relating to various aspects of the formulation and implementation of policy issues highlighted in the Programme of Action and preparation of related technical cooperation projects and programmes;

(c) *Group training.* Organization, including collaboration at the national, subregional and regional level with other institutions, and participation, through presentations at training events, workshops and seminars, in the least developed countries;

5. Coordination, harmonization and liaison

As the focal point in the United Nations system for monitoring the implementation of the Programme of Action at the global level, UNCTAD coordinates and programmes its work with regional commissions and other organizations within and outside the United Nations system and draws upon the substantial research and analytical capacity existing in the system on the social and economic situation of the least developed countries. UNCTAD provides substantive services to the ACC machinery on issues relating to least developed countries, participates in UNDP round tables and the World Bank consultative group processes, Paris Club meetings on debt related to least developed countries and regional and subregional biennial cluster meetings; assists least developed countries to undertake consultations among themselves on matters of common interest to them in the context of the implementation of the Programme of Action; and contributes tod the work of the Committee for Development Planning related to criteria for identification of the LDCs.

B. Land-locked and island developing countries

1. Parliamentary services

(a) *Parliamentary documentation*. Reports to the General Assembly on progress in the implementation of specific action related to the particular needs and problems of island developing countries; and of land-locked developing countries; report to the meeting of the intergovernmental group of experts from island developing countries and representatives of donor countries and financial and development institutions (pending the decision of the General Assembly at its 51st session); report to the meeting of the intergovernmental group of experts from land-locked and transit developing countries and representatives of donor countries and financial and development institutions and report of consultative group meetings called for by General Assembly resolution 50/97.

(b) *Substantive services*. General Assembly and TDB on the issues related and landlocked and island developing countries.

2. Published material

Non-recurrent publications: a comparative analysis of the regional and subregional specific problems and prospects of landlocked and island developing countries.

3. Operational activities

Backstopping of projects for landlocked and island developing countries.